



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

mw

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/315,680	05/20/1999	PETER NICHOLLS	7210-000001/	6820

7590 02/05/2004

GREGORY A STOBBS
HARNESS DICKEY & PIERCE PLC
PO BOX 828
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303

EXAMINER

POINVIL, FRANTZY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3628

DATE MAILED: 02/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/315,680

Applicant(s)

NICHOLLS ET AL.

Examiner

Pedro Kanof

Art Unit

3628

MW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-89,99 and 100 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-89,99 and 100 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 3628

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. A proper dependent claim shall not conceivably be infringed by anything which would also infringe the base claim. See MPEP 608.01(n), Section III. However, the pending claims 69 and 70 recite "a computer storage medium storing computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 55" and "a computer-controlled apparatus configured to perform the method of claim 55". Applying the infringement test, what is needed to infringe claims 69 and 70 is, for example, a CD-ROM having computer executable code that if and when executed would cause a computer to do the determining, providing, and communicating steps. However, such a CD-ROM would not infringe the method steps of claim 55 since the CD-ROM itself never performs any of the active steps of determining, providing, and communicating required by the method. In other words, mere possession of such a CD-ROM would infringe claims 69 and 70, but this is not enough to infringe claim 55. As a result, claims 69 and 70 are improper dependent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Art Unit: 3628

3. Claims 1-89, 99, and 100 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Keating et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,161,109) (hereinafter Keating).

Claims 1 and 13: Keating discloses a logistics management tool to facilitate the process of shipping goods by a shipper (user) via a selected one of a plurality of carriers ("...terminals 10-14...", Col. 5, lines 60 and 61; the terminals hooked up to data center 18 that stores rules and rate information for the carrier); comprising:

a plurality of rate servers comprising computer implemented rate storage and calculating means, at least one rate server for each of said plurality of servers, at least one of said rate servers having message processing means for sending, receiving and handling messages ("...capability of uploading and downloading...", "...rates, as well as other...", "...certain discounts...", Col. 6, lines 7-26; and "...updating instructions and rates used...", col. 7, lines 23-65);

at least one of said rate servers having database means for maintaining a record of the rates applicable to a given one of said carriers and further having an embedded set of predefined methods representing the rate computation rules of said given one of said carriers ("...storage areas of accessed memory...", Col. 6, lines 7-26; and "...memory 48...", col. 7, lines 3 and 4);

at least one client application comprising computer implemented input and output means separate from said rate servers and having user interface to permit the shipper to interact with said logistics management tool in order to process the shipment of goods ("...two way communication...", "...continuous interchange...", Col.6, lines 44-49; and "...two way communication...", Col. 6, lines line 64-col. 7, line 11);

Art Unit: 3628

at least one of said rate servers having a shipper interface means for defining a set of operations accessible to said client application; the set of operations representing the procedure by which the shipper ships goods to thereby isolate the set of operations by which a shipper ships from the rules by which a carrier transports ("...rules and regulations...", Col. 6, lines 7-26; and "...rules and regulations...", Col.6, lines 44-49);

at least one supervisory server for integrating operations of said rate server, and for making said operations accessible to said client application, said supervisory server having message processing means for sending messages to and receiving messages from said rate server and said client application and for handling messages sent and received based upon a predefined set of rules ("...control of the program...", col. 6, line 63-col. 7, line 11, and "...diagnostic monitoring a two-way communication link establishing a tracking facility...", col. 7, lines 20-44).

Claims 2 and 14: Keating discloses the tools of claims 1 and 13. Keating also discloses scripting system communicating with said client application for modifying at least one of said set of operations representing the procedure by which the shipper ships goods, because the U.S. Post Office handled "packages" (Col. 1, lines 9-46) which contains goods.

Claims 3 and 15: Keating discloses the tools of claims 1 and 13. Keating also discloses wherein said client application comprises a shipments client for rating and documenting a group of packages comprising a shipment being processed by the shipper ("...a user provides certain of the processing activities...", col. 2, lines 35-41; "...group pf documents processed by the user...", col. 2, lines 51-65; and "...each of the user applications are also designed to apply postage...", col. 4, lines 17-45).

Art Unit: 3628

Claims 4 and 16: Keating discloses the tools of claims 1 and 13. Keating also discloses wherein said client application comprises a packages client for rating and documenting a single piece of shipment being processed by the shipper ("...each of the user applications are also designed to apply postage...", col. 4, lines 17-45).

Claims 5 and 17: Keating discloses the tools of claims 2 and 14. Keating also discloses wherein said scripting system is a script administration client comprising one of said client applications ("...each of the user applications are also designed to apply postage...", col. 4, lines 17-45, and "...such composition including weight, volume, classifications,...are all facilities which may be incorporate within the user facility. Incorporation of such information within a user facility..", col. 3, lines 47-67; and col. 8, lines 13-27).

Claims 6 and 18: Keating discloses the tools of claims 1 and 13. Keating also discloses wherein said client application comprises a carrier rate adjustments, such as discounts, client having a user interface operable to allow the user to alter the predefined methods representing the rate computation rules ("...discounts...", and "qualify for reduced rate requirements...", col. 6, lines 3-30).

Claims 7 and 19: Keating discloses the tools of claims 2 and 14. Keating also discloses document server for providing printing services to said client application (Col. 7, line 66-col. 8, line 5).

Claims 8 and 20: Keating discloses the tools of claims 7 and 19. Keating also discloses wherein said printing services include printing documents generated to effect shipment ("...The insert process may utilize a printing capability at the user station 284...", col. 12, lines 59-60).

Art Unit: 3628

Claims 9 and 21: Keating discloses the tools of claims 1 and 13. Keating also discloses wherein said rate server is installed on a first computer system and wherein said client application is installed on a second computer system, the first and second computer systems being coupled together over a network (Col. 5, line 60-col. 6, line 30).

Claims 10 and 22: Keating discloses the tools of claims 1 and 13. Keating also discloses an external processing manager for providing communications services to permit said client application to request and receive data from an external database not supervised by said supervisory server (Col. 6, line 63-col. 7, line 3).

Claim 11 and 23: Keating discloses the tools of claims 10 and 22. Keating also discloses wherein said logistics management tool is installed under an operating system which provides command interpreter facility and wherein said external processing manager interfaces wide said operating system to use said command interpreter facility to provide said communications services (Col. 6, line 63-col. 7, line 17).

Claims 12 and 24: Keating discloses the tools of claims 11 and 23. Keating also discloses wherein said command interpreter facility is responsive to a predefined command set and wherein said external processing manager includes means integrated with said command interpreter facility for supplementing said predefined command set (Col. 7, lines 18-65).

Claim 25: Keating discloses the tool of claim 13. Keating also discloses wherein said rate server is installed on a first computer system and wherein said client application is installed on a second computer system, the first and second computer systems communicating over a global-wide area network (Col. 5, line 60-col. 6, line 30).

Claim 26: Keating discloses the tool of claim 13. Keating also discloses wherein the supervisory server comprises an interprocess communication mechanism for passing messages

Art Unit: 3628

between the rate server and the client application (“...information regarding updates...”, Col. 6, lines 44-62).

Claim 27: Keating discloses a logistics management tool to facilitate the process of shipping goods by a shipper via a carrier, comprising:

a rate server, connected to a network, having a set of rules by which a carrier transports (Col. 6, lines 3-19);

a client application, connected to the network, having a set of rules by which a shipper ships (Col. 5, lines 60-col. 6, line 3); and

a supervisory server, connected to the network, through which said rate server and said client application register to establish a mutual message communication capability by which said rate server and said client application thereafter pass messages independently of said supervisory server over an interface between them, said interface isolating the set of rules by which the shipper ships from the rules by which the carrier transports (Col. 6, line 63-col. 7, line 65).

Claim 28: Keating discloses the tool of claim 27, wherein:

the client application includes a client interface for communicating with the client application (Col. 5, line 60-col. 6, line 7); and

the rate server is configured to communicate with the client application via the client interface (Col. 6, line 7-col. 6, line 43).

Claim 29: Keating discloses the tool of claim 27. Keating also discloses wherein:

the messages comprise at least one predefined request message issued by the client application to the rate server; and

Art Unit: 3628

at least one predefined response message issued by the rate server to the client application (Col. 6, lines 44-62, col. 8, lines 43-59).

Claim 30: Keating discloses the tool of claim 29. Keating also discloses wherein: the predefined request message includes a weight and a delivery date for a package to be shipped (Col. 3, lines 47-67); and

the predefined response message includes a cost for shipping the package (Col. 6, lines 7-26, and col. 7, lines 23-32).

Claim 31: Keating discloses the tool of claim 27. Keating also discloses wherein the set of rules by which the carrier transports comprises a knowledge base of rate structures and carrier practices pertaining to the carrier (Col. 6, lines 7-26, and col. 7, line 6-col. 8, line 12).

Claim 32, and 33: Keating discloses the tool of claim 27. Keating also discloses wherein the set of rules by which the shipper ships comprises a knowledge base of shipper's practices pertaining to the shipper, and wherein the knowledge base of the shipper's rules, regulations, and practices comprises rules for taking orders for goods from customers, packaging the goods, and shipping the goods to customers (col. 6, lines 7-30).

Claim 34: Keating discloses the tool of claim 27. Keating also discloses wherein the client application further comprises a user interface for collecting input information from a user about a desired shipping operation and for providing output information ("...answering of specific data questions..." through "...a two-way communication...", col. 6, lines 44-62).

Claim 35: Keating discloses the tool of claim 27. Keating also discloses wherein the supervisory server engages an interprocess communication mechanism to facilitate message passage between the rate server and the client application.

Art Unit: 3628

Claim 36: Keating discloses the tool of claim 35. Keating also discloses wherein the interprocess communication mechanism is selected from the group consisting of shared memory, semaphores, named pipes, queues, signals, netbios, sockets, and mail slots (Col. 6, lines 7-43, and col. 8, lines 43-59).

Claim 37: Keating discloses the tool of claim 35. Keating also discloses an external processing manager for interfacing the logistics management tool with external data bases or other application programs (Col. 7, lines 23-44).

Claim 38: Keating discloses the tool of claim 35. Keating also discloses a device manager for interfacing the logistics management tool with external peripheral devices (Col. 7, lines 44-65).

Claim 39: Keating discloses tool of claim 35. Keating also discloses wherein the client application further comprises a document server for printing of a shipping document (Col. 7, line 66-col. 8, line 5, and col. 12, lines 59-60).

Claim 40: Keating discloses tool of claim 35. Keating also discloses a document administration object for extending communication standards for the interprocess communication mechanism (Col. 6, lines 7-63, and col. 7, line 66-col. 8, line 12).

Claim 41: Keating discloses tool of claim 27. Keating also discloses wherein the rate server is installed on a first computer system and wherein the client application is installed on a second computer system, the first and second computer systems communicating over a global-wide area network (Col. 5, line 60-col. 6, line 30).

Claim 42: Keating discloses a logistics management tool to facilitate the process of shipping goods by a shipper via a carrier, comprising:

Art Unit: 3628

a rate server having a record of the rates applicable to said carrier and further having an embedded set of predefined methods representing the rate computation rules of said carrier, said rate server being connected to a network for sending, receiving and handling messages (Col. 7, lines 18-33);

at least one client application connected to said network and is separately located from said rate server on said network, said client application having a user interface to permit the shipper to interact with said logistics management tool in order to process the shipment of goods (Col. 5, line 60-col. 6, line 7);

said rate server having a shipper interface for defining a set of operations accessible to said client application, the set of operations representing the procedure by which the shipper ships goods to thereby isolate the set of operations by which a shipper ships from the rules by which said carrier transports (Col. 6, lines 7-30); and

at least one supervisory server for making said operations of said rate server accessible to said client application, said supervisory server being connected to said network for sending messages to and receiving messages from said rate server and said client application and for handling messages sent and received based upon a predefined set of rules (Col. 6, line 63-col. 7, line 17).

Claim 43: Keating discloses the tool of claim 42. Keating also discloses wherein the client application includes an accessible client interface for communicating with the client application; and the rate server is configured to communicate with the client application via the client interface (Col. 5, line 60-col. 6, line 7).

Claim 44: Keating discloses the tool of claim 42. Keating also discloses wherein

Art Unit: 3628

at least one predefined request message including a weight and a delivery date for a package to be shipped is issued by the client application to the rate server (Col. 3, lines 47-67); and

at least one predefined response message including a cost for shipping the package is issued by the rate server to the client application (Col. 6, lines 7-26, and col. 7, lines 23-32).

Claim 45: Keating discloses the tool of claim 42. Keating also discloses wherein the rate server includes a knowledge base of rate structures and carrier practices pertaining to the carrier (Col. 6, lines 7-26, col. 7, line 66-col. 8, line 12).

Claim 46: Keating discloses the tool of claim 42. Keating also discloses wherein the client application includes a knowledge base of the shipper's practices pertaining to the shipper (Col. 6, lines 7-30).

Claim 47: Keating discloses the tool of claim 46. Keating also discloses wherein the knowledge base of the shipper's practices includes rules for taking orders for goods from customers, packaging the goods, and shipping the goods to customers (Col. 6, lines 7-30).

Claim 48: Keating discloses the tool of claim 42. Keating also discloses wherein the user interface collects input information from a user about a desired shipping operation and provides output information (Col. 6, lines 44-62).

Claim 49: Keating discloses the tool of claim 42. Keating also discloses wherein the supervisory server includes an interprocess communication mechanism for passing messages between the rate server and the client application (Col. 6, lines 7-26, and col. 6, line 63-col. 7, line 17).

Claim 50: Keating discloses the tool of claim 49. Keating also discloses wherein the interprocess communication mechanism is selected from the group consisting of shared

Art Unit: 3628

memory, semaphores, named pipes, queues, signals, netbios, sockets, and mail slots (Col. 6, lines 7-43, and col. 8, lines 43-59).

Claim 51: Keating discloses the tool of claim 49. Keating also discloses an external processing manager for interfacing the logistics management tool with external data bases or other application programs (Col. 7, lines 23-44).

Claim 52: Keating discloses the tool of claim 49. Keating also discloses a device manager for interfacing the logistics management tool with external peripheral devices (Col. 7, lines 44-65).

Claim 53: Keating discloses the tool of claim 49. Keating also discloses wherein the client application further includes a document server for printing a shipping document (Col. 7, line 66-col. 8, line 5, and col. 12, lines 59-60).

Claim 54: Keating discloses the tool of claim 42. Keating also discloses wherein said rate server is installed on a first computer system and wherein said client application is installed on a second computer system, the first and second computer system communicating over a global-wide area network (Col. 5, line 60-col. 6, line 30).

Claim 55: Keating discloses a logistic management method for facilitating the process of shipping goods by a shipper via a carrier, said shipper having a computer-implemented client application that has access to a network and which is related to shipping said goods, said client application having a set of rules by which the shipper ships, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a rate server having a set of rules by which the carrier transports in order to determine data related to shipping the goods (Col. 6, lines 7-30);

Art Unit: 3628

providing access to said rate server on said network from the client application such that said rate server is separately located from said client application on said network (col. 6, line 63-col. 7, line 17), and

communicating the determined data from said rate server to said client application through an interprocess communication mechanism connected to said network and thereby isolating the set of rules by which the shipper ships from the rules by which the carrier (Col. 8, lines 43-59).

Claim 56: Keating discloses the method of claim 55. Keating also discloses the step of communicating the determined data to the client application through an accessible client interface (Col. 7, lines 18-65).

Claim 57: Keating discloses the method of claim 55. Keating also discloses the steps of issuing a request message by the client application to the rate server; and issuing a response message by the rate server to the client application (Col. 6, lines 44-62).

Claim 58: Keating discloses the method of claim 57. Keating also discloses wherein: the predefined request message includes a weight and delivery date for a package to be shipped (Col. 3, lines 47-67); and

the predefined response message includes a cost for shipping the package (Col. 3, lines 7-26, and col. 7, lines 23-32).

Claim 59: Keating discloses the method of claim 55. Keating also discloses the step of providing the rate server with a knowledge base of rate structures and carrier practices pertaining to the carrier (Col. 6, lines 7-26, and col. 7, line 6-col. 8, line 12).

Art Unit: 3628

Claim 60: Keating discloses the method of claim 55. Keating also discloses the step of providing the client application with a knowledge base of the shipper's practices pertaining to the shipper (Col. 6, lines 7-30).

Claim 61: Keating discloses the method of claim 60. Keating also discloses the knowledge base of the shipper's practices includes rules for taking orders for goods from customers, packaging the goods, and shipping the goods to customers (Col. 6, lines 7-30).

Claim 62: Keating discloses the method of claim 55. Keating also discloses the step of collecting via a user interface input information from a user about a desired shipping operation (Col. 6, lines 44-62).

Claim 63: Keating discloses the method of claim 55. Keating also discloses the step of providing an interprocess communication mechanism for passing messages between the rate server and the client application (Col. 6, lines 7-26, and col. 6, line 63-col. 7, line 17).

Claim 64: Keating discloses the method of claim 63. Keating also discloses wherein the interprocess communication mechanism is selected from the group consisting of shared memory, semaphores, named pipes, queues, signals, netbios, sockets, and mail slots (Col. 6, lines 7-43, and col. 8, lines 43-59).

Claim 65: Keating discloses the method of claim 63. Keating also discloses the step of providing an external processing manager for interfacing the logistics management tool with external data bases or other application programs (Col. 7, lines 22-44).

Claim 66: Keating discloses the method of claim 63. Keating also discloses the step of providing a device manager for interfacing the logistics management tool with external peripheral devices (Col. 7, lines 44-65).

Art Unit: 3628

Claim 67: Keating discloses the method of claim 63. Keating also discloses the step of providing the client application with a document server for printing a shipping document (Col. 7, line 66-col. 8, line 5, and col. 12, lines 59-60).

Claim 68: Keating discloses the method of claim 55. Keating also discloses the steps of:

installing the rate server on a first computer system, with the client application being on a second computer system (Col. 5, line 60-col. 6, line 30); and

providing the determined data of the rate server to the client application over a global-wide area network (Col. 5, line 60-col. 6, line 62).

Claim 69: Keating discloses a computer storage medium storing computer-executable instructions for performing the method of Claim 55 (Col. 6, lines 7-30, col. 6, line 63-col. 7, line 17, Col. 8, lines 43-59).

Claim 70: Keating discloses a computer-controlled apparatus configured to perform the method of Claim 55 (Col. 6, lines 7-30, col. 6, line 63-col. 7, line 17, Col. 8, lines 43-59).

Claim 71: Keating discloses a logistics management tool to facilitate the process of shipping goods by a shipper via a carrier, comprising:

a rate server, connected to a network, having a set of rules by which a carrier transports (Col. 6, lines 7-30);

a client application, connected to the network, having a set of rules by which a shipper ships (Col. 5, line 60-col. 6, line 7);

a supervisory server, connected to the network, with which said rate server and said client application register to facilitate communication of messages between said rate server and

Art Unit: 3628

said client application independently of said supervisory server (Col. 6, line 63-col. 7, line 65);
and

an interface associated with at least one of said rate server and said client application which isolates the set of rules by which the shipper ships from the set of rules by which the carrier transports (Col. 6, lines 31-62).

Claim 72: Keating discloses the tool of Claim 71, wherein:

the client application includes a client interface for communicating with the client application (col. 6, lines 31-62); and

the rate server is configured to communicate with the client application via the client interface (Col. 6, lines 7-30).

Claim 73: Keating discloses the tool of claim 71, wherein the messages comprise:

at least one predefined request message issued by the client application to the rate server; and at least one predefined response message issued by the rate server to the client application (Col. 6, lines 44-62).

Claim 74: Keating discloses the tool of Claim 73, wherein:

the at least one predefined request message includes a weight and a delivery date for a package to be shipped (Col. 3, lines 47-67); and

the at least one predefined response message includes a cost for shipping the package (Col. 6, lines 7-26, and col. 7, lines 23-32).

Claim 75: Keating discloses the tool of Claim 71, wherein the set of rules by which the carrier transports comprises a knowledge base of rate structures and carrier practices pertaining to the carrier (Col. 6, lines 7-26, and col. 7, line 6-col. 8, line 12).

Art Unit: 3628

Claim 76: Keating discloses the tool of Claim 71, wherein the set of rules by which the shipper ships comprises a knowledge base of shipper's practices pertaining to the shipper (Col. 6, lines 7-30).

Claim 77: Keating discloses the tool of Claim 76, wherein the knowledge base of the shipper's practices comprises rules for taking orders for good from customers, packaging the goods, and shipping the goods to customers (Col. 6, lines 7-30).

Claim 78: Keating discloses the tool of Claim 71, wherein the client application further comprises a user interface for collecting input information from a user about a desired shipping operation and for providing output information (Col. 6, lines 44-62).

Claim 79: Keating discloses the tool of Claim 71, wherein the supervisory server engages an interprocess communication mechanism to facilitate message passage between the rate server and the client application (Col. 6, lines 7-26, and col. 6, line 63-col. 7, line 17).

Claim 80: Keating discloses the tool of Claim 79, wherein the interprocess communication mechanism is selected form the group consisting of shared memory, semaphores, named pipes, queues, signals,- netbios, sockets, and mail slots (Col. 6, lines 7-43, and col. 8, lines 43-59).

Claim 81: Keating discloses the tool of Claim 79, further comprising an external processing manager for interfacing the logistics management tool with external data bases or other application programs (Col. 7, lines 23-44).

Claim 82: Keating discloses the tool of Claim 79, further comprising a device manager for interfacing the logistics management tool with external peripheral devices (Col. 7, lines 44-65).

Art Unit: 3628

Claim 83: Keating discloses the tool of Claim 79, wherein the client application further comprises a document server for printing a shipping document (Col. 7, line 66-col. 8, line 5, and col. 12, lines 59-60).

Claim 84: Keating discloses the tool of Claim 79, further comprising a document administration object for engaging communication standards for the interprocess communication mechanism (Col. 6, lines 7-63, and col. 7, line 66-col 8, line 12).

Claim 85: Keating discloses the tool of Claim 40, wherein the rate server is installed on a first computer system and wherein the client application is installed on a second computer system, the first and second computer systems communicating over a global-wide area network (Col. 5, line 60-col. 6, line 62)..

Claim 86: Keating discloses a delivery management tool, comprising:

- at least one rate server having rate information based upon a set of rules by which a carrier delivers (Col. 6, lines 7-30);
- at least one client configured to collect input information from a user (Col. 6, line 31-62);
- at least one supervisory server including at least one computer configured to provide registration services to facilitate communication between the rate server and the client via a client/server architecture utilizing an inter-process communication mechanism, said communication being independent of said supervisory server (Col. 6, lines 63-col. 7, line 65); and
- whereby the rules by which the user operates are isolated from the set of rules by which the carrier delivers (Col. 6, lines 7-30).

Claim 87: Keating discloses the tool of Claim 86, wherein one or more of the computer processes are distributed across a network (Col. 5, line 60-col. 6, line 7, and col. 6, line 63-col. 7, line 65).

Art Unit: 3628

Claim 88: Keating discloses the tool of Claim 86, wherein at least two of the rate server, the client and the supervisory server run on a single processor (col. 6, line 63-col. 7, line 65).

Claim 89: Keating discloses the tool of Claim 86, wherein a first client, a first rate server, and a first supervisory server run on a single processor (Col. 9, line 35-col. 10, line 7).

Claim 99: Keating discloses a logistic management tool to facilitate the delivery of goods comprising:

- a network architecture for passing messages (Col. 5, line 60-col. 6, line 7);

- a supervisory server having a registrar enabling communication with said network architecture (col. 6, line 63-col. 7, line 65);

- at least one client application having a set of shipper rules and a first data processing service including a first registration service to register said client application with said registrar for establishing a line of communication between said client application and said network architecture (Col. 6, lines 7-30),

- a first interface service to collect input data, generate a request message based on said input data and said set of shipper rules and display a response message (Col. 6, lines 31-62), and

- a first message handling service to communicate said request message and said response message between said client application and said network architecture (Col. 6, lines 44-62); and

- at least one rate server having a set of carrier rules and a second data processing service including a second registration service to register said rate server with said registrar for

Art Unit: 3628

establishing a line of communication between said rate server and said network architecture (Col. 6, lines 7-30),

a second interface service to generate said response message based on said set of carrier rules and said request message, and a second message handling service to communicate said request message and said response message between said rate server and said network architecture (Col. 6, lines 44-62);

wherein said first and second message handling services enable communication between said at least one client application and said at least one rate server via said network architecture and isolate said set of carrier rules from said set of shipper rules (Col. 6, lines 7-col. 7, line 65, and col. 8, line 5-col. 9, line 66).

Claim 100: Keating discloses the logistics management method of claim 55, further comprising the step of providing at least one supervisory server configured to provide registration services to facilitate communication between the rate server and the client (Col. 6, line 63-col. 7, line 65).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Pedro R. Kanof whose telephone number is (703) 308-9552. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Serial Number: 09/315,680


Page 21

Art Unit: 3628

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Hyung Sough, can be reached on (703) 308-0505. The fax phone numbers for this Group are: Customer Service (703) 872-9325, Before Final (703) 872-9326, and After Final (703) 872-9327.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

PRK-12/23/03


HYUNG SOUGH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600